

September 2003 Injury Prevention Newsletter

Alaska News & Resources

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1. Injury Prevention Colleagues Join CHEMS.

Recently, the Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services has benefited by having Linda Chamberlain and Jo ~~Gottshalk~~[Gottschalk](#), formerly with the Section of Maternal, Child and Family Health, and Deborah Choromanski Hull-Jilly and Charles Wood, from the Section of Epidemiology join the injury prevention team.

Linda and Jo work on the Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project (AFVPP) which may be found as a link at the www.chems.alaska.gov site or directly at www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/injury_prevention/akfvpp. The AFVPP is taking a leadership role in the statewide and nationwide effort to better coordinate a public health response to domestic violence issues. AFVPP's current research and training activities are focused on the impact of violence on children including the physical, developmental, cognitive, and behavioral implications of growing up in a violent household.

Deborah and Charles work in the Occupational Injury Prevention Program which includes Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and Seafood Processing Injury Assessment and Control Projects. The Occupational Injury Prevention Program monitors occupation-related fatalities in Alaska. The program collects detailed information on selected incidents and disseminates prevention recommendations. Their link may also be found at www.chems.alaska.gov or directly at http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupational_injury. Further, Deborah has recently secured a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work on the development of a National Violent Death Reporting System

2. Firearm Storage Practices in Rural Alaska.

In the September issue of Injury Prevention, found at <http://ip.bmjournals.com/>, Alaska is highlighted in a study about firearm safety. Ward Jones of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation was one of the authors who studied the use of gun safes and gun locks in homes with two or more guns. The findings indicate that gun safes were used more than trigger locks by those involved in the intervention. Please read the abstract found at the site above. For further information you may also contact Ward Jones at wjones@bbahc.org. David Grossman, Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, is also a contact for the study at Navajo@u.washington.edu.

3. Head Start Programs Receive Fire Safety Curriculum.

The "play safe! be safe!" curriculum for children 3-5 years of age, sponsored by BIC, was sent out to 120 Head Start or Early Head Start programs around Alaska. For more information about the curriculum you can go to www.playsafebesafe.com or contact Jodie Hettrick at jodie_hettrick@dps.state.ak.us.

4. Watch Those Mushrooms.

Fall is a great time to go “mushrooming” in many states and Alaska is no different. However, not all mushrooms are edible. For information about edible and non-edible mushrooms check out a book discussed at <http://www.alaska.com/akcom/trivia/trivcom/bio/story/747380p-799836c.html>. To date there have been no known fatalities due to mushroom poisoning in Alaska. Let’s keep it that way.

5. Home Safety Council

“Safety and health are essential to the good life that we wish for all our neighbors, but each year thousands of Americans are injured at home. In 1993 the Home Safety Council was developed to help prevent the waste, pain, and cost of these home injuries.” This site offers information for all types of home injuries and it includes the www.coderedrover.org site that has a lot of entertaining ways for children to learn about safety in the home. To explore this resource further, click on <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.asp>.

6. October Themes:

The International Day of Older Persons is October 1, 2003. Learn more about how CDC is working to protect older Americans from the threat of injury at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/olderadults.htm.

Remember that October 8th is Walk Your Child to School Day. Anchorage, Juneau, Mat-Su, Kenai, Kodiak, and Fairbanks are participating in Children’s National Walk to School projects.

Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11. This year’s theme is “Get out, stay out.” Alaska will carry the fire safety theme throughout the month of October and will focus on practicing your fire drills and careless smoking.

Injury rates are impacted greatly because of the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, addresses alcohol and other drug abuse issues throughout schools in the United States.

When injury isn’t prevented you may need physical therapy and you’ll be happy to know that October is also Physical Therapy Month with a theme of “Physical Therapy: Exercise Your Options.” From a public health perspective, consistent exercise is a protective factor against injury.

Daylight savings time changes to standard on October 26, 2003. Remember: “Change your Clocks and Change your Batteries” along with replacing any smoke alarms that are over 10 years in age.

And, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced October as “Window Covering Safety Month.” Since 1991, CPSC has received reports of 174 strangulation deaths involving cords and chains on window coverings. 152 deaths involved the outer-pull cords, which raise and lower the blind. 22 deaths involved the inner-cords, which run through the window blind slats. Read about what CPSC is suggesting to improve window covering safety and more at #7 directly below.

7. Product Recalls and Safety Information.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: www.cpsc.gov.

This newsletter has been compiled by the Section of Community Health & EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a ‘bcc’ to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer, (907)465-8632, karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us

